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and exceptionally open-minded in the matter of the many moot questions which so largely make up our present science. What might be considered as errors or inadequacies of treatment are no doubt largely explainable on grounds of lack of space for a full consideration of the questions involved. It is not likely that the book will lead any serious worker far astray.—B. E. LIVINGSTON.

Manual of carboniferous plants

The work, of which Doctor JONGMANS has published the first part under the title cited,³ is destined to constitute a manual of the carboniferous plants of western Europe. As may be inferred, it is intended for the use of students and paleontologists who have under examination the ordinary impressions and carbonized fragments which constitute over 99 per cent of the material representing the carboniferous floras. The treatment is adapted primarily, therefore, to the identification of such plant fragments. Accordingly the histologist, looking for descriptions or illustrations of the microscopical structure of carboniferous plants, will not find much information of that kind in the work, or at least in its first part. As a matter of fact, there are in the Paleozoic comparatively few plant genera the microscopical anatomy of which is known, because in most formations the geologist very rarely encounters petrified material admitting of histological comparison. Such material, when it is found, is almost invariably limited to restricted areas, as well as very distant stratigraphic horizons. From the stratigraphic standpoint petrified plant fragments, which are apt to lack superficial characters, are of relatively little value.

The paleobotanical matter in the work is arranged to serve the purpose of greatest practical utility. The pteridophytes are grouped in (1) Equisetales, (2) Sphenophyllales, (3) Lycopodiales, and (4) Filicales, to which, as an appendix, is added (5) Cycadofilices or the Pteridospermae. The first volume, embracing 482 pages, ends with the Sphenophyllales. Each group, family, and genus is briefly but lucidly defined, the descriptions and differentiations being often graphic in their simplicity and effectiveness. In most cases where the genus or subgenus includes half a dozen or more species, carefully prepared and most useful keys are introduced to aid in the identification of the fossils. Most of the species are also illustrated to show their diagnostic features, and the pains and good judgment which the author has shown in the choice of his illustrations, a large number of which represent type specimens, contributes materially to the value and importance of the work. All these features combine to make it a reference work for the use of systematic or stratigraphic paleobotanists.

³ JONGMANS, W. J., *Anleitung zur Bestimmung der Karbonpflanzen West Europas mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der in den Niederlanden und den benachbarten Ländern gefundenen oder noch zu Erwartenden Arten*. Band I. *Thallophytae, Equisetales, Sphenophyllales*. 482 pp. *figs.* 390. 's Gravenhage: Mededeelingen van de Rijksopsporing van Delfstoffen. 1911.

In his point of view JONGMANS is generally fairly conservative. His species are for the most part clearly delineated, as shown by the synonymy, though in some cases plants have been included under a single name, which in the judgment of the reviewer, should be maintained separately. An example is *Calamites inornatus* Dawson, here included under *Asterocalamites scrobiculatus*, but really a *Pseudobornia*. On the other hand, there are very many instances of wise and careful reconstruction and correlation. It is assumed that the parts yet to be printed will, like the one in hand, be accompanied by bibliographies and complete indexes, which will aid in making the book the most useful, I may say indispensable, work that has yet been published for the systematic identification of ordinary carboniferous plants.—DAVID WHITE.

Poisonous plants

PROFESSOR PAMMEL has published a *Manual of poisonous plants*⁴ whose bulk is a surprise. The reviewer did not imagine that there were so many poisonous plants in the whole world, and the author has restricted himself to "chiefly eastern North America." An explanation is found in the broad interpretation of the subject, for the book includes "all plants that are injurious, although many of these are not known to produce poisons, some even being most useful economic plants and yet injurious to some people."

After the surprise of bulk has subsided, the appalling amount of bibliographical work becomes impressive. At the end of the volume is a bibliography of poisonous plants, a bibliography that must have been traversed more or less completely, and it contains 1237 titles (50 pp.). In addition to this, there is "a catalogue of the poisonous plants of the world" (59 pp.), and also a very complete index (59 pp.).

Part I (150 pp.) includes the presentation of the subject from the standpoint of the poisons, as the titles of the 15 chapters will indicate: Poisons and statistics on poisons; Bacterial poisons; Dermatitis; Forage poisoning, ergotism, and aspergillosis; Poisoning from fungi; Poisoning from other plants—equisetosis, locoism, and lupinosis; Delphinosis, lathyrismus (lathyrism), aconitism, veratrum, Umbelliferae, Conium, Cicuta; Fish and arrow poisons, hydrocyanic poisoning, toxalbumins; Poisoning from opium; Solanaceae and plants that contain saponins; Poisoning from flowers and from honey, mechanical injuries; Classification of poisons, symptoms, and antidotes; Production of poison in plants; Algae in water supplies; Catalogue of the more important poisonous plants of the United States and Canada; Chemistry of alkaloids, glucosides, etc.

Part II (652 pp.) is a descriptive manual, with keys, numerous illustrations, and all the data necessary for determination. The sequence used is that of

⁴ PAMMEL, L. H., A manual of poisonous plants; chiefly of eastern North America, with brief notes on economic and medicinal plants, and numerous illustrations. 8vo. pp. xiv+977. pls. 17. figs. 458. Cedar Rapids (Ia.): The Torch Press. 1911.